

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
January 28, 2014

**CALL TO ORDER:** 6:30 P.M.

**INVOCATION:** Reverend Rick Boshoven – Trinity Memorial Lutheran Church

**ROLLCALL:** All members were present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, REMONSTRATIONS:**

Mr. Goralczyk made a motion to amend the agenda to include Resolution 14-06 and Mr. Widing second the motion. The motion was approved by 7/0 voice vote.

Mr. Hardaway made a motion that Rick Biella be reappointed as Police Commissioner and Mr. Widing second the motion.

Mr. Spann made a motion to nominate Gene Ward for Police Commissioner and Mr. Pettit second the motion.

Mrs. Barron made a motion to close nomination and Mr. Hardaway second the motion.

The motion to nominate Rick Biella was a 3/3 voice vote, Mr. Goralczyk abstained.  
The motion to nominate Gene Ward was a 3/3 voice vote, Mr. Goralczyk abstained.

Mr. Pettit made a motion that they table the appointment of the Police Commissioner until such time the council is able to have a workshop and/or executive session and second Mr. Hardaway. The motion to table was approved by a 7/0 voice vote.

Mr. Pettit made a motion for Timothy Fortier to be reappointed to BZA and Mr. Goralczyk second the motion. The motion was approved by a 7/0 voice vote.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Accts. Payable Register Voucher Approval January 28, 2014. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of January 14, 2014. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve and second by Mr. Hardaway. The motion was approved 7/0 voice vote.

**STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**BUDGET & FINANCE:**

Mrs. Barron asked that Mr. Guernsey provide the total cost of the renovation of the Purzin Center, the remodeling for the Town Hall, the incentive we are getting from Modern Dropforge, the money that was spent for the park and the Preserves and the total cost for the parks and parcels to appraised and auctioned. Mr. Guernsey stated that all is public record. Mrs. Barron stated she wanted it placed in her box. Mr. Guernsey accepted and requested list of requested items.

**PUBLIC WORKS:**

Mr. Pettit made a motion that the town advertise for 2014 paving program, bid packets are available in Clerk-Treasurers office beginning Monday February 4, 2014 and Mr. Hardaway second the motion. The motion was approved by a 7/0 voice vote.

There was a discussion regarding difficulties in plowing because residents are parking on the street and the council believes residents need to adhere to the 2 inch snow fall and park their vehicles in the driveway.

**COUNCIL AFFAIRS:**

Mr. Spann would like to create a committee to determine duties of future inspectors. Mrs. Miano has created a logo to be placed on the inspectors' vehicles.

**PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:**

Mr. Goralczyk made a motion to approve the raises of the town employees. The salary increase for the police department will be a \$10,000.00 increase over the next three years; in 2014 the raise will be \$6,000.00, in 2015 the raise will be \$2,000.000 and in 2016 the raise will be \$2,000.00. The longevity pay will increase from 20 years to 30 years, \$100.00 a year. The civil employees will receive a \$3,000.00 raise for 2014, a \$2,000.00 in 2015 and a \$1,000.00 in 2016 for a total of \$6,000.00 increase. The increase will be retroactive January 1, 2014. Mr. Hardaway second the motion. The motion was approved by a 7/0 voice vote.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:**

Mr. Widing made a motion for approval of F.O.P contract Resolution 14-06 and second by Mr.Spann. The motion was approved by a 7-0 voice vote.

**PARKS & RECREATION:** No report.

**ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:**

Mr. Goralczyk commented about Waste Management's great performance in the winter snow.

Mr. Lake provided updates regarding Stormwater: Mr. Lake just finalized the agenda for 2014 MS4 meeting which will be held on May 13, 2014 in Indianapolis. Stormwater will be addressing a drainage concern on 73<sup>rd</sup> Ave. Work on Madison ditch has been delayed because of extreme cold weather. A workshop with Lake County Surveyor is being planned and it will cover FEMA requirements and flood plan management.

**ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:**

Mrs. Miano reminded that AARP is coming to do taxes for senior and people with low income beginning February 4, 2014.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**

Mr. Pettit stated that the RDC met for the first time this year and passed the final resolution to expand the Mississippi Tif District to include the resurfacing for Clay Street from 8500 block to 101<sup>st</sup> Ave.

**UTILITY LIAISON: No report.**

**TOWN GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANIZATION: No report.**

**ADA COMPLIANCES:**

Mrs. Miano brought to Mr. Spires attention that the handicap button located in the front of the town hall does not work all the time and also there is snow built up surrounding the tower that houses the button.

**GENERAL ORDERS:**

**FIRST READING ORDINANCES:**

**Ord. 14-01 :** An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, fixing the salaries and pay for employees of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana for the calendar year 2014. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and second by Mr. Spann. The motion was passed by 7/0 roll call vote.

**Ord. 14-02:** An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville Town Council adopting a personnel policy manual for the Town of Merrillville, Indiana. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve and second Mr. Hardaway. The motion was approved by 7/0 roll call vote.

**SECOND READING ORDINANCES: No report.**

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**Res. 14-05:** A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville Town Council adopting a two (2) year capital improvement plan for the purpose of receiving the Town's distribution of Lake County Economic Development income tax (CEDIT) funds. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve and second by Mr. Pettit. The motion was approved by 7/0 voice vote.

**Res. 14-06:** A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville Town Council approving amendment to the collective bargaining agreement between the Town of Merrillville, Indiana and Fraternal Order of Police Merrillville Lodge 186. Resolution passed unanimously under Public Safety.

**BZA ACTIONS: No report.**

**OLD BUSINESS: No report.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mrs. Miano added Mr. Hardaway to the Budget and Finance Committee and omits Mr. Spann. Mrs. Miano appointed Mrs. Barron to Utility Liaison omits Mr. Spann, and Mr. Pettit and Mr. Goralczyk will remain on the committee.

NIRPS appointment was deferred at the January 14, 2014 council meeting. Due to Mr. Pettit's work schedule he is unable to continue with his past appointment. Mr. Pettit suggested Clerk-Treasurer Eugene Guernsey to fill the NIRPS position. Mrs. Miano appoints Eugene Guernsey to NIRPS.

Mr. Pettit stated that the council needs to schedule an executive session to discuss the Preserve because Mr. Bushemi was not able to come to an agreement with the owner of the property. Mr. Pettit wants it to be known that he believes it is ludicrous that the owner did not accept their offer. The executive session will help the council decide what they are going to do. Mr. Pettit stated that he will do everything in his power to protect the residents in the Preserve, because they are his neighbors and they have made an investment, and the property owner is not making an investment in our town. The property owner paid \$250, \$58,000 is ridiculous. Mrs. Miano asked when

Mr. Pettit would like to schedule the session. Mr. Bushemi stated there is no timeline, and suggested scheduling it an hour before the next council meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** All public comment is recorded on cassette tape and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at Town Hall.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Stormwater Management Board Mtg., February 4, 2014 at 4:30 p.m.

Town Council Meeting, February 11, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.

NIRPS Public Meeting, February 18, 2014 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Merrillville Town Hall

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**ADJOURNMENT**

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**Carol Miano, President**

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**Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer**